



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

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National Transportation
Systems Center

Kendall Square
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142

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June 11, 2002

Melvin and Lerah Parker
P.O. Box 609
Libby, Montana 59923

Subject: Response to Letter Re: Agricultural Soil on Parker Property

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Parker,

This letter is written as a clarification in response to your letter to Courtney Zamora, dated June 3, 2002 (see attached). In the first part of your letter you state, "all material less than 3" sieve in size down to 1/2" in size will be accepted up to 30% by volume. All material that is less than 1/2" mesh will make up at least 70% of the remaining volume." This is the case for material previously placed on your property. This was verified through the test pits dug on June 1, 2002. CDM's geotechnical engineer, Harold Liendecker, and you agreed to the quantity of rock in the agricultural fill in each test pit sample. For each test pit, a 5 gallon bucket of excavated material was sieved through a 1/2" mesh screen on-site. Samples containing more than 30% material retained on the 1/2" screen were noted and the areas around these test pits will be removed during the 2002 construction season. Samples containing 30% or less material retained on the 1/2" screen were determined to be acceptable by Harold and you. Per your direction, no further analysis was conducted on these test pit samples to verify silt loam classification by USDA Classification, as stated in the second part of your letter.

Agricultural fill material to be brought in for the 2002 construction season will meet the requirements stated in both parts of your letter. New agricultural fill for 2002 will be analyzed by ASTM method D-422 to determine the distribution of particle sizes. Material meeting the government's specification for agricultural fill (20-40% Sand, 10-25% clay, 50-70% silt) and classified as a silt-loam by the USDA soils classification system will be used on-site to bring the site up to final grade.

Should you have any questions, please call me at (617) 494-2574.

Sincerely,

John McGuiggin, PE
Project Manager

cc: EPA/Paul Peronard, OSC
CDM/Peter Borowiec
File/Parker Restoration

Attachment: (1) Letter

COURTNEY:

JUNE 3/02

My UNDERSTANDING OF THE AGRICULTURE SOIL
IS THAT: IT IS

ALL MATERIAL LESS THAN 3" SIEVE IN SIZE DOWN
TO 1/2" IN SIZE THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED UP TO
30% BY VOLUME. ALL MATERIAL THAT IS LESS THAN
1/2" MESH WILL MAKE UP AT LEAST 70% OF
THE REMAINING VOLUME.] THAT SOIL SIZE WHICH IS
2.0 MM IN SIZE OR LESS AND IS CLASSIFIED BY
THE U.S.D.A. STANDARDS AS 20-40% SAND,
10-25% CLAY AND 50-70% SILT. AND CONSIDERED
AS SILTY LOAM. ON THE U.S.D.A. CHART.

IF THIS IS NOT AS YOU UNDERSTAND IT
PLEASE CALL ME BEFORE I LEAVE TODAY AT
3:30 P.M.

THE PHONE NUMBER IN NORTH CAROLINA
IS 252-223-6948 AT THE RESIDENCE OF
TENA MATSON.

THANK YOU
W. Parker